George got rid of, the Gold Standard re-established, the claims for reparations made in the ebullience of victory reduced to manageable proportions by, first the Dawes, and then the Young Plan, the American Debt refunded. It seemed as though the world was settling down to its old comfortable ways again, money being money, a foreign investment a foreign investment, with nothing more formidable to contend with than the rein-carnation of the Liberal Party as the Labour Party, of Morley and Campbell-Bannerman as Henderson and MacDonald.

Appearances were deceptive. What was thought to have been repaired seemed now to be more decrepit than ever; and if MacDonald more than lived up to the role which had been assigned to him, a growing awareness of the absurdity of over-production existing side by side with want was giving rise to more ominous cries than for Peace, Retrenchment and Reform.

What were the Government to do ? They had insisted on the advantage of no longer treating Germany as a defeated enemy, but now money, not benevolence, was wanted; they had in-veighed against Capitalism, and now found themselves its legatees, like prohibitionists unexpectedly made responsible for the management of a derelict brewery. Either they had to salvage what they had condemned as cruel and unworkable, or to await a catastrophe which they did not understand and for which they had no stomach. Neither course appealed to them. They just did nothing at all, only hoped.

Long acrimonious debates took place in Parliament on the merits and demerits of the Alternative Vote and

university representation, and each session left behind its trail of Commissions of Enquiry. Many there were of these—on capital punishment, on licensing laws, on whatever might be expected to arouse controversy other than on party lines. They accumulated like dirty plates and dishes in a lazy household; in due course producing their reports, mostly bulky, which were conscientiously noticed when published, and then referred to rarely. Sunday Observances received consideration, and mixed bathing in the Serpentine; and not very convincing attempts were made